

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A powered appliance comprising:
2 a working member;
3 a handle coupled to the working member; and
4 a control movable between a first position proximate the
5 handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a
6 second position distant the handle in which movement of the working
7 member is at least reduced, wherein one of the handle and the control is
8 configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the
9 control prior to compression of the handle or the control when in the first
10 position and wherein at least one of the handle and the control includes a
11 flexible material adjacent the other of the handle and the control.
- 1 2. The appliance of definition 1, wherein one of the control and
2 the handle includes an extension configured to at least partially wrap
3 about the other of the control and the handle, wherein at least a portion
4 of the extension includes the flexible material.
- 1 3. The appliance of definition 2, wherein the control member
2 includes the extension.
- 1 4. The appliance of Claim 2, wherein the extension includes an
2 overlap portion spanning a junction of the handle and the control and
3 wherein the overlap portion includes the flexible material.
- 1 5. The appliance of Claim 2, wherein an entirety of the
2 extension is formed from the flexible material.
- 1 6. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the flexible material is
2 compressible.

1 7. The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the flexible material is a
2 foam.

1 8. The appliance of Claim 6, wherein said one of the handle and
2 the control forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle
3 and the control.

1 9. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein said one of the handle and
2 control forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and
3 the control.

1 10. The appliance of Claim 9, wherein the handle forms the
2 channel.

1 11. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the powered appliance
2 comprises a lawnmower and wherein the working member comprises a
3 blade.

1 12. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the control pivots
2 between the first position and the second position.

1 13. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the control comprises a
2 bale arm.

1 14. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein movement of the working
2 member is cessated when the control is in the second position.

1 15. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein power to the working
2 member is reduced when the control is in the second position.

1 16. The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the control member is
2 biased towards the second position.

1 17. An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a
2 working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control
3 movable between a first position proximate the handle in which
4 movement of the working member is permitted and a second position
5 distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least
6 reduced, the accessory comprising:

7 a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the
8 control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of
9 the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body
10 includes a flexible portion adjacent the other of the handle and the
11 control.

1 18. The accessory of Claim 17, wherein the body includes an
2 extension configured to at least partially wrap about the other of the
3 control and the handle, wherein at least a portion of the extension
4 includes the flexible material.

1 19. The accessory of Claim 18, wherein the extension includes
2 an overlap portion spanning a junction of the handle and the control and
3 wherein the overlap portion includes the flexible material.

1 20. The accessory of Claim 18, wherein an entirety of the
2 extension is formed from the flexible material.

1 21. The accessory of Claim 17, wherein the flexible material is
2 compressible.

1 22. The accessory of Claim 21, wherein the flexible material is
2 selected from a group including: foam, flocked foam, cloth, flexible
3 polymers, woven and non-woven fabrics, and various combinations
4 thereof.

1 23. A powered appliance comprising:
2 a working member;
3 a handle coupled to the working member; and
4 a control movable between a first position proximate the
5 handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a
6 second position distant the handle in which movement of the working
7 member is at least reduced, wherein one of the handle and the control is
8 configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the
9 control prior to compression of the handle or the control when in the first
10 position and wherein at least one of the handle and the control includes a
11 compressible material adjacent the other of the handle and the control.

1 24. An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a
2 working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control
3 movable between a first position proximate the handle in which
4 movement of the working member is permitted and a second position
5 distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least
6 reduced, the accessory comprising:
7 a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the
8 control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of
9 the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body
10 includes a compressible portion adjacent the other of the handle and the
11 control.

1 25. A method for equipping and operating a powered appliance
2 including a working member, a handle coupled to the working member,
3 and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in
4 which movement of the working member is permitted in a second position
5 distant to the handle and in which movement of the working member is at
6 least reduced, the method comprising:

7 providing a tube having a compressible outer surface, an
8 inner cavity, and an opening communicating with the inner cavity;
9 inserting one of the handle and the control through the
10 opening into the inner cavity; and
11 moving the control to the first position adjacent the tube
12 such that at least a portion of the control is surrounded by the outer
13 surface.

1 26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the operation of moving
2 the control includes compressing the outer surface with the control such
3 that at least a portion of the control is surrounded by the outer surface.

1 27. The method of Claim 25 includes positioning the control at
2 least partially within the opening.

1 28. The method of Claim 25, wherein the opening comprises a
2 longitudinal slit.

1 29. The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends
2 at least 120 degrees about the control after the control has been moved
3 to the first position.

1 30. The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends
2 at least 180 degrees about the control after the control has been moved
3 to the first position.

1 31. The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends
2 at least 270 degrees about the control after the control has been moved
3 to the first position.

1 32. A method for equipping and operating a powered appliance
2 including a working member, a handle coupled to the working member,
3 and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in

4 which movement of the working member is permitted in a second position
5 distant to the handle and in which movement of the working member is at
6 least reduced, the method comprising:
7 providing a flexible member;
8 moving the control to the first position; and
9 wrapping the flexible member at least partially about both
10 the handle and the control.

1 33. The method of Claim 32, wherein the flexible member
2 comprises a sheet of at least one material.

1 34. The method of Claim 32, wherein the flexible member has a
2 first side and a second compressible side and wherein the wrapping
3 operation includes positioning the first side against the handle and the
4 control.

1 35. The method of Claim 34, wherein the first side includes
2 means to prevent movement of the flexible member relative to the control
3 and the handle.

1 36. A method for equipping and operating a powered appliance
2 including a working member, a handle coupled to the working member,
3 and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in
4 which movement of the working member is permitted in a second position
5 distant to the handle and in which movement of the working member is at
6 least reduced, the method comprising:
7 providing a flexible member having a first end and a second
8 opposite end;
9 wrapping the flexible member about one of the handle and
10 the control;

11 securing the first and second ends relative to one another
12 about said one of the handle and the control; and
13 moving the control to the first position adjacent the flexible
14 member such that at least a portion of the control is surrounded by the
15 flexible member.

1 37. The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member has a
2 compressible outer surface and wherein the operation of moving the
3 control includes compressing the outer surface with the control such that
4 at least a portion of the control is surrounded by the outer surface.

1 38. The method of Claim 36, wherein the outer surface extends
2 at least 120 degrees about the control after the control has been moved
3 to the first position.

1 39. The method of Claim 36, wherein the outer surface extends
2 at least 180 degrees about the control after the control has been moved
3 to the first position.

1 40. The method of Claim 36, wherein the outer surface extends
2 at least 270 degrees about the control after the control has been moved
3 to the first position.

1 41. The method of Claim 36, wherein the wrapping operation
2 includes spacing the first and second ends from one another to form a
3 gap therebetween and wherein the operation of moving the control
4 includes positioning the other of the handle and the control within the
5 gap.

1 42. The method of Claim 36, wherein the securing operation
2 includes releasably coupling the first end to the second end.

1 43. The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member
2 includes an inner surface and outer surface and wherein the securing
3 operation includes adhering the inner surface to said one of the handle
4 and the control.

1 44. The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member has an
2 inner surface including means for preventing movement of the flexible
3 member relative to said one of the handle and the control.

1 45. An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a
2 working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control
3 movable between a first position proximate the handle in which
4 movement of the working member is permitted and a second position
5 distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least
6 reduced, the accessory comprising:
7 a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the
8 control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of
9 the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body
10 has a compressible outer surface and a high friction inner surface
11 configured to prevent movement of the body relative to said one of the
12 handle and the control when the body is coupled to said one of the handle
13 and the control.

1 46. An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a
2 working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control
3 movable between a first position proximate the handle in which
4 movement of the working member is permitted and a second position
5 distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least
6 reduced, the accessory comprising:

7 a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the
8 control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of
9 the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body
10 has a first end and a second opposite end and wherein the body is
11 dimensioned such that the first and second ends are sufficiently spaced
12 from one another to form a gap therebetween when the body is coupled
13 to said one of the handle and the control, wherein the gap is sized to
14 substantially receive the other of the handle and the control when the
15 control is in the first position.

1 47. An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a
2 working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control
3 movable between a first position proximate the handle in which
4 movement of the working member is permitted and a second position
5 distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least
6 reduced, the accessory comprising:

7 a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the
8 control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of
9 the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body
10 includes a first end and a second opposite end and wherein the accessory
11 further includes means for securing the first and second ends relative to
12 one another about said one of the handle and the control in at least one
13 direction.

1 48. The accessory of Claim 47, wherein the means for securing
2 includes a first extension extending from the first end and a second
3 extension extending from the second end and wherein the first extension
4 and the second extension are configured to be directly coupled to one
5 another.